

**From:** Mike Droney  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 11:52pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter regarding the nature of the settlement between microsoft corp. and the US government concerning the anticompetitive practices that the software company has practiced for years.

I believe the settlement does very little to open the way for other companies to compete against microsoft.

The language used in PFJ are obscure and vague at best, allowing certain loopholes to be exploited to the benefit of Microsoft in circumventing the various agreements reached between the two sides.

For instance, the settlement does force microsoft to reveal its APIs to the competition. However, the inverse of this is true also, with the competition having to do the same with their software. This leaves smaller companies at risk from the same predatory practices that have been the trademark of microsoft, i.e. microsoft, now having access to foreign ATIs, may "plagiarise" the products, thus. According to James Mathewson's column at Computer User.com, this is "indicative of the whole agreement".

According to the same journalist, the supposed \$1.4 billion dollar computer and software settlement donation will help to enhance Microsoft's philanthropic image.

Where is the justice or rationale for such a settlement, and who is the real winner in this outcome. Not alternative software companies, and certainly not the public.

Sincerely,

Michael Droney.